

Bloc Party Constitution

Introduction to Party Roles

1. Advisory Board
 - 1.1. Responsibilities
 - 1.1.1. Attend and participate in Advisory Board meetings
 - 1.1.2. Vote on and discuss policy recommendations for the party in Advisory Board meetings
 - 1.1.3. Help plan and institute any party events
 - 1.2. Eligibility
 - 1.2.1. Nominated by the previous Advisory Board and confirmed by a majority vote of the Party
 - 1.2.2. One seat is reserved for a Senator, if available
 - 1.2.3. One seat is reserved for the Party Leader
 - 1.2.4. One seat is reserved for a member of the Executive, if available
 - 1.2.5. One seat is reserved for a delegate other than the Party Leader, if available
2. Party Leader
 - 2.1. Responsibilities
 - 2.1.1. Lead Advisory Board meetings
 - 2.1.2. Deliver policy recommendations to the party when legislation is before the full House of Delegates
 - 2.1.3. Help plan and institute any party events
 - 2.1.4. Ensure voting recommendations are provided by the Advisory Board
 - 2.1.5. Hear objections to and support of legislation from party members before Advisory Board meetings
 - 2.1.6. Present objections to and support of legislation from party members to the Advisory Board
 - 2.1.7. Run elections for various Party positions
 - 2.1.8. Refrain from making recommendations inconsistent with the Party's
 - 2.2. Eligibility
 - 2.2.1. Must have been in the Bloc Party for at least two semesters

- 2.2.2. Must be a member of the previous Advisory Board, if available
 - 2.2.3. Nominated by the previous Advisory Board
- 3. Party Whips
 - 3.1. Responsibilities
 - 3.1.1. Deliver policy recommendations to the party from the Advisory Board in committee meetings (primarily Student Affairs, but may also be other committees too)
 - 3.1.2. Explain the reasoning of the Advisory Board to the party
 - 3.1.3. Refrain from making recommendations inconsistent with the Party's when fulfilling the duties as Whip
 - 3.2. Eligibility
 - 3.2.1. Preferably, on the Advisory Board, but if not, must attend Advisory Board meetings when relevant recommendations are discussed
 - 3.2.2. May not serve as Whip for committees that the delegate also chairs
 - 3.2.3. Appointed by the Party Leader
- 4. Party Secretary
 - 4.1. Responsibilities
 - 4.1.1. Update the Party Google Drive
 - 4.1.2. Assist Advisory Board with orientation information
 - 4.2. Eligibility
 - 4.2.1. Appointed by the Party Leader
 - 4.2.2. Must be in the Bloc Party
- 5. Recruiting Team
 - 5.1. Responsibilities
 - 5.1.1. Recruit new members to the Liberty University Student Government and to the Bloc Party
 - 5.1.2. On rare occasions, recruit members that are already involved in Liberty University Student Government to the Bloc Party
 - 5.1.3. Plan Recruitment Events
 - 5.1.4. Work alongside Party Leader and Advisory Board in providing an orientation for new Party members.
 - 5.1.5. Prepare a Bloc Party logo, emblem, crest, or slogan
 - 5.2. Eligibility
 - 5.2.1. Must be in the Bloc Party
 - 5.2.2. Must be voted in or added without objection
- 6. Party Members
 - 6.1. Engage in discussion related to specific bills, especially controversial ones

- 6.2. Generally, vote according to Advisory Board recommendations
- 6.3. Attend most House of Delegates sessions, if in the House of Delegates
- 6.4. Join and attend most Student Affairs committee meetings, if in the House of Delegates
- 6.5. Join and regularly attend at least one other committee, if possible
- 6.6. Collaborate with other party members on legislation

Article I Advisory Board

Section 1 - Elections and appointments

1. The Party Leader is elected by the Advisory Board for the next academic year.
2. If no Advisory Board members are eligible to be the next Party Leader, then a special election from the current year's party membership will be conducted, presided over by the current Party Leader.
3. There are no term limits for Party Leader or Advisory Board members.
 - 3.1. Any members of the Advisory Board, who are still eligible and wish to stay on the Advisory Board, will stay on for the upcoming year.
4. Any positions opening for the next academic year will receive nominations by the current year's Advisory Board, and the current Party may accept the nominees by a majority vote.
5. An available Executive position will be filled before the Senate position, and both seats will be filled before an available House position.
 - 5.1. This does not mean that one election must happen before the other, just that if a limited number of seats are available, then those mentioned above get preference.

Section 2 - Makeup

1. The Advisory Board will be made up of five members.
2. To ensure representation from all areas of SGA, the Advisory Board will consist of the Party Leader, Party Whip(s)(from the House of Delegates), at least one member of the Senate, if available, at least one member of the Executive, if available, and at least one member of the House besides the Party Leader, if available, to ensure different perspectives from the different branches.
3. The Speaker of the House and members of the judiciary are restricted from holding any positions on the Advisory Board or other positions in Party leadership
 - 3.1. Members of the judiciary may join the Bloc Party, but to preserve an independent judiciary, justices should generally refrain from discussions involving elections.
4. All members of the Advisory Board must serve on the Recruiting Team

Section 3 - Leadership meetings

1. Advisory Board sessions will be held over a messaging service or in person.
2. Advisory Board recommendations will be given at a time early enough to give party membership time to review the recommendations before legislation is debated.
 - 2.1. To accomplish this, the Advisory Board should generally give recommendations at least a few hours before the legislation recommended is up for debate.
3. Advisory Board recommendations will be given at a time late enough to give party membership the opportunity to raise objections and support of legislation to the Party Leader.
 - 3.1. If allowed by the timeframe that legislation is sent out, the Advisory Board should try to wait at least a day after the legislation is sent out to consider recommendations on legislation.
4. The Party Leader will have the ultimate responsibility to type up recommendations from the High Council on how to vote as well as the reasoning behind the recommendations, but other High Council members may type up the recommendations and reasoning as well.
5. The Advisory Board's recommendations to the Party may be in favor of legislation, against legislation, or in favor of no voting recommendation to the Party.
6. The Party Leader will communicate any objections or support received from Party members regarding legislation.
7. A quorum does not need to be reached to debate recommendations, but a quorum must be reached to vote on a recommendation if disagreement is voiced and someone calls for a vote.
 - 7.1. If a vote is called and a quorum is not reached, no recommendation will be made.
 - 7.2. **A quorum is defined as 1/2 of the Advisory Board when they are voting and 1/3 of any other group that is voting.**
 - 7.3. **Voting results are always determined out of the number of people who submit a vote, not out of the size of the group to which the vote is presented. Abstentions do not count as votes against.**
8. Any recommendation to which a vote is not called for will be assumed to be accepted.

9. Any recommendation which there seems to be general agreement on may be recommended without a vote.
10. For any legislation with which there is some general disagreement, the Board may choose to issue no recommendation or to bring the recommendation in question to a vote.
11. A simple majority will pass or fail a recommendation.
 - 11.1. If a recommendation is failed, then another Advisory Board member may issue a recommendation that is different in result than the previous recommendation.
12. In the case of a tie vote of 2-2 or 1-1, no formal recommendations will be made to the party.
 - 12.1. However, Council members from both sides of the vote may write out (with or without identification) their reasons for objection to or support of the legislation which may be included in the party recommendations
13. If the Advisory Board is debating recommending voting no on a piece of legislation authored by a member of the Bloc Party, a vote of at least 1-4 in opposition to the bill must be reached for a recommendation of No to be passed on the bill.
 - 13.1. If the bill is voted 2-3 in opposition to the bill, no recommendation will be passed on the bill.

Section 4 - Impeachment

1. Any party official may be impeached, excluding the secretary, by a secret vote for failing to execute the duties of that official's position
2. A motion of impeachment will be taken before the Advisory Board, where it must be approved 4-1
3. If the person being impeached is a member of the Advisory Board, then the motion of impeachment will instead be taken before the members of the party, where it must reach a 2/3 majority vote once a quorum is reached.
4. The impeachment vote will be run by the Party Leader, unless the Party Leader is up for impeachment, or an objection is made against his or her leadership of the vote.
 - 4.1. If the Party Leader is up for impeachment, then the party members may elect a special Election Commissioner from the Bloc Party to reside over the election
 - 4.2. The election for Election Commissioner will be run by the Party Whip.

5. If an objection is made against the Party Leader running the impeachment vote because of the potential for personal bias, then a secret vote will be taken against the Party Leader where a 50% majority will be enough to remove the Party Leader from running the impeachment vote
 - 5.1. If the Party Leader is removed from running the impeachment vote, then the Party will elect a special Election Commissioner from the Bloc Party to reside over the election.
 - 5.2. The election for Election Commissioner will be run by the Party Whip.

Article II Party Membership

1. Current members of the Bloc Party do not have to reapply for membership.
2. Anyone who is currently or plans to be engaged in Liberty University Student Government is eligible to join the Bloc Party.
3. Anyone currently living on the Honors Hall may join the Bloc Party without a formal vote.
 - 3.1. Anyone may raise an objection, with reasoning, to anyone joining from Commons 2 Floor 2.
 - 3.2. **Anyone raising an objection will have six hours to raise an objection before the person is added, but anyone may raise an objection up to twenty-four hours after the original proposal for membership is raised.**
 - 3.3. If an objection is raised, a vote will proceed in a like manner of if someone not residing in Commons 2 Floor 2 was applying to join the Bloc Party.
4. Anyone not currently living on Commons 2 Floor 2 must be formally voted on to join.
 - 4.1. The vote consists of a secret poll in the Bloc Party GroupMe chat.
 - 4.2. Options to vote will be Yay, Nay, or Abstain.
 - 4.3. A 2/3 majority will be needed to allow someone membership into the Bloc Party.
 - 4.4. A quorum is not needed.
 - 4.5. The Party Leader will conduct the poll.
5. Any delegate who is not currently in party leadership may be expelled from the Bloc Party.

- 5.1. Before a motion for expulsion can be raised against a member of Party leadership, that member must first be impeached from his Party position.
- 5.2. A motion to expel a member must be brought to the Party Leader who will then present it to the Advisory Board.
- 5.3. A motion to expel must pass the Advisory Board by a vote of 4-1.
- 5.4. If a motion to expel passes the Advisory Board, then it will be voted on by the general party.
- 5.5. A motion to expel must pass the Party by a 2/3 majority in a secret vote after a quorum is reached. If this 2/3 majority is met, then the member will be expelled.

Article III Recruiting Team

Section 1 - Joining

1. Any party member may join the Recruiting Team.
2. The Recruiting Team's function is to recruit new members to Liberty Student Government and the Bloc Party.
3. On rare occasions, the Recruiting Team may also recruit new members who are already affiliated with Liberty Student Government.
 - 3.1. Members that are already affiliated with Liberty Student Government should show a commitment to the people and leadership of the Bloc Party.
4. Any Party member may join the Recruiting Team without a vote unless a current member of the Recruiting Team raises an objection.
 - 4.1. If there is an objection, then a vote will be taken, and a 2/3 majority of the Recruiting Team without a quorum must vote in favor of the applicant to the Recruiting Team for the member to be accepted.

Section 2 - Orientation

1. An orientation will be given to new members of the Bloc Party to introduce them to the workings of the Bloc party and House of Delegates.
2. The Recruiting Team will work with the Party Leader to develop an orientation for new recruits to the Bloc Party and Student Government.

Section 3 - Logos, emblems, slogans, and crests

1. The Recruiting Team should also create or commission the creation of a Bloc Party logo, emblem, slogan, or crest.
 - 1.1. A simple majority vote of the Recruiting Team with a quorum will be enough to adopt a Bloc party logo, emblem, slogan, or crest.
 - 1.2. The Party Leader may veto the logo, emblem, slogan, or crest for any reason.
2. This logo, emblem, slogan, or crest may be changed or updated at any time.

Article IV Google Drive

Section 1 - Important Bloc Party Documents

1. The Bloc Party Google Drive will house all Bloc Party legislation that has been passed, is currently in the legislative process, or may be presented to the legislature in the future
2. The Bloc Party Google Drive will house the Bloc Party Constitution
3. The Bloc Party Google Drive will house all past Advisory Board recommendations and the record of votes on legislation in Student Affairs committee and the House of Delegates, as well as a legislation's success through the Student Body President, the Executive Vice President of Student Affairs, and the President of Liberty University
 - 3.1. This may also contain voting records and recommendations from other committees and the Senate
 - 3.2. If possible, the official House legislation tracker may be added to the Google Drive in the place of the secretary having to continually update progress on resolutions.
4. The Bloc Party Google Drive will contain the Student Government Constitution, the House of Delegates Bylaws, the House of Delegates Parliamentary Procedure, the Senate Parliamentary Procedure, and any other applicable governing documents for the Liberty University Student Government.
5. The Bloc Party Google Drive will contain the formats for bills, resolutions, constitutional amendments, and any other applicable formats that would benefit a party member.

Section 2 - Bloc Party Secretary

1. The Bloc Party secretary will be charged with updating and maintaining the Bloc Party Google Drive.
2. Every week, the Bloc Party secretary will add and update all Advisory Board recommendations to the Google Drive as well as the voting results from legislation and results of the bill.
3. The Bloc Party Secretary will add all other documents mentioned in the previous section and continue to update them as needed
 - 3.1. This part of the Google Drive should be updated as needed at the beginning of each semester or if there is a known change to the applicable documents
4. The Party Leader will appoint a Bloc Party Secretary preferably from the High Council.

Section 3 - Google Drive Folders

1. Bloc Party bills will be kept in the Bloc Party Google Drive
2. Bloc Party legislation will be kept in four folders: Passed Legislation, Failed Legislation, Legislation in Progress, and Prospective Legislation.
 - 2.1. Any Bloc Party legislation that has passed all the way through the Liberty University President will be added to the Passed Legislation folder.
 - 2.2. Any Bloc Party legislation that has failed at any point in the legislative process will be placed in the Failed Legislation folder along with reasons for why the legislation failed as a reference to improve legislation in the future.
 - 2.3. Any Bloc Party legislation that is currently in the Legislative Process will be in the Legislation in Process folder along with its history and current state.
 - 2.3.1. The Legislation Tracker may be placed in this folder as a substitute for the author having to continually update legislation status after legislation has passed the Senate.
 - 2.4. Any Bloc Party legislation that is finished but is either waiting to be heard or seeking critique will be placed in the Prospective Legislation folder.
 - 2.4.1. Delegates and Senators may add their own legislation or legislation ideas to the Prospective Legislation folder and update the legislation as it progresses through the legislative process.

- 2.4.2. Delegates and Senators may also send their legislation to the secretary who will add the legislation to the prospective folder and keep the history of the legislation up to date
- 2.4.3. This is the folder for delegates to collect cosponsors
- 2.4.4. People may leave their contact information in this folder for people to contact to collaborate on legislation.

Section 4 - Removal

- 1. The Bloc Party secretary may be replaced at any time by the Party Leader for failure to perform the office of Bloc Party secretary or to meet the responsibilities of a delegate
 - 1.1. A secretary may not be removed without another secretary willing to take the removed secretary's place

Article V Running for Student Government Office

- 1. The Bloc Party hopes to have many candidates seeking to run for different offices, such as but not limited to the Speaker of the House and committee chairmen.
- 2. To keep votes from being split, only one party member may run during each election.
 - 2.1. This does not apply to Student Body Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections.
- 3. If there are two Bloc Party members who wish to run for the same seat, then a special election will be held to determine which person may run.
 - 3.1. A secret ranked-choice voting election will occur in the Bloc Party GroupMe chat until one candidate receives a simple majority of the votes cast.
 - 3.2. The Party Leader will run this election unless he is one of the people running or there is an objection to his running the election.
 - 3.2.1. For procedure on electing an Election Commissioner and removing a Party Leader, see Article 1, Section 4, 4-5.
 - 3.3. If the election results in a tie, then the Advisory Board will vote on the candidate to run.
 - 3.4. If the Advisory Board results in a tie, then the Party Leader will decide which candidate will run.

- 3.5. Any candidate that runs despite losing the Bloc Party nomination will be considered for impeachment and expulsion.

Article VI GroupMe Chat

1. Official Bloc Party business, such as but not limited to Advisory Board recommendations, will be conducted in the Bloc Party GroupMe chat.
2. All members of the Advisory Board will be given admin access in the GroupMe chat.
3. The new Party Leader will be transferred ownership of the Bloc Party GroupMe chat and shall keep ownership until it is time to transfer ownership of the chat to the next Party Leader.
4. **Previous Advisory Board members will receive Advisory Board Emeritus status and will retain Admin status in GroupMe until they decide to relinquish it.**

Article VII Amendment

1. The Bloc Party Constitution may be amended.
2. A constitutional amendment may be submitted to the Advisory Board where it must pass by a vote of 4-1.
 - 2.1. It will then be submitted to the Bloc Party where it must pass by a 2/3 majority with a quorum by a secret vote.
3. A constitutional amendment may bypass the Advisory Board.
 - 3.1. If the authors of the constitutional amendment choose to bypass the Advisory Board, it will be voted on by the members of the party directly by a secret vote where it must pass with an 80% majority.
 - 3.2. This motion will first be given to the Party Leader who will then present it to the Party to vote on.

Article VIII Authority

1. The Bloc Party Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Bloc Party and any decisions that contradict the Bloc Party Constitution are null and void.
2. If an accusation of constitutional infraction is brought forth to the Party Leader, then a three-person temporary adjudication board will be created.

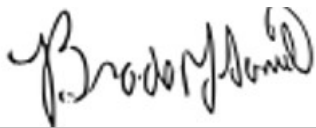
- 2.1. Any members of the judiciary that are currently in the Bloc Party will automatically be placed on this adjudication board.
- 2.2. No members of the Advisory Board may be on this adjudication board.
- 2.3. If there are any remaining positions on the adjudication board unfilled, then another Bloc Party member will nominate other Bloc Party members to the Party Leader to be voted on.
- 2.4. The Party Leader will lead a secret ranked-choice poll if there are more nominees than available positions to fill.
- 2.5. The adjudication board will determine if an action taken by a member of the Bloc Party is in violation of this Constitution.
 - 2.5.1. The adjudication board will present a report to the Party at the conclusion of its analysis with recommendations to the Party on how to proceed.
 - 2.5.2. This report may include recommendations for impeachment, expulsion, censure, or proposed remedies to the infraction in instances where the Constitution is determined to have been violated.

Article IX Ratification

1. This Constitution must be approved by 2/3 of the current Advisory Board members, as well as a 2/3 majority vote of the current Bloc Party.

Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the Advisory Board members present the eighth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, we have hereunto subscribed our names:

Advisory Board:



Braden Daniels: Author



Daniel Hostetter: Editor



Caleb Webb: Editor



Theresa Lam: Editor

Party Delegates: